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RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

### WORDS OF ADVICE

Try to get involved in research as early and frequently as possible. Feed your curiosity. As an undergraduate student, I started doing research my junior year and worked on different projects, including determining ways to recover waste motor oil, developing a computer game to teach chemistry concepts and using chemical engineering tools to estimate the cost effectiveness of industrial-scaled chemical procedures. While these projects are not connected to the projects I worked on as a graduate student or beyond, these experiences as an undergraduate researcher helped me learn and develop valuable scientific skills.

### WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS FIELD?

I had an engaging professor who demonstrated such a strong passion for chemistry and teaching, it was difficult not to enjoy her class or the topics. I enjoyed the challenge of the course, the patterns that emerged in chemistry and liked using chemical principles to explain different phenomena.

### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTOR RELATIONSHIP?

The most important part of the mentor relationship is the support that it provides. Knowing that someone cares, wants to help and is willing to push you to be your best, often beyond what you think is your best, is invaluable.

### ADVICE TO A STUDENT, JUST BEGINNING TO CONSIDER A CAREER IN SCIENCE?

Science will be difficult at times, but it is also exciting and interesting. Focus on these parts when things aren't working. The science won't always work, but it's so rewarding when it does.

### WHAT IS MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love working with my students! I love teaching and reaching out to my students, and trying to find ways for them to enjoy science and see connections that they care about. I love working with my students in research because they start to see themselves as scientists; they figure out different procedures, troubleshoot their experiment and obtain results that haven't been seen before. It's hard work, but a lot of fun, and certainly worthwhile. These types of experiences pushed me to continue on my path, and I hope that my students are encouraged to continue in science.